the parties assured to seek their monies of every several assurer by suits commenced in her Majesty's Courts to their great charges and delays There is by this Act now appointed a standing Commission for such suits

An Act for the more peaceable government of the parts of Cumberland, Northumberland, Westmoreland and the Bishopric of Durham, because that of late years there hath been in these counties many incursions, roads, robberies and burning and spoiling of towns, Milages and houses, that divers subjects have been enforced to pay a certain rate of money, corn or cattle or other consideration, commonly there called by the name of [6] black mail/ to sundry, being men of name, who are commonly great robbers and spoil takers, to be by them protected from the danger of such as do usually rob and steal in those parts, to the great impoverishing of the Queen's subjects, and her service and levenues great diminished It is enacted that those who levy or pay * black mail' shall be reputed felons and suffer pain of death without any benefit of clergy, sanctuary or objuration

2ist December THE GREAT DANGER AT OSTEND

The garrison of Ostend is now m great extremities Of the 7,000 men that have been sent there not about 800 or 900 are able and fit to defend the works, so greatly are they consumed by their continual service and the assaults of the enemy Moreover in this cold and tempestuous weather no succour of men or materials hath reached them for several weeks past Of workmen there is even greater need, and the Archduke, who is present in person before the town, now hasteneth preparations for the assault

Jonson hath published that comical satire of *Poetaster,* adding thereto the apologetical dialogue that was only once spoken upon the stage, wherein he defends himself against those who say that he taxed the law and lawyers, captains, and the players by their names, declaring that he chose Augustus Caesar's times, when wit and art were at their height in Rome, to show that Virgil, Horace, and the rest of those master spirits did not want detractors nor practisers against them